



The Elusive Peace

The Korean War Armistice Agreement, signed on the afternoon of July 27, 1953, in Panmunjom, marked the end of two years of negotiations for a cease-fire. Four issues figured centrally in the Korean War truce talks: the location of the cease-fire line; the composition of the armistice advisory commission; repatriation of prisoners of war; and the procedures for transforming the truce into a permanent peace settlement. While the Armistice Agreement ended the bloodshed, no formal agreement has ever been reached. Today the Korean Peninsula remains divided along an approximate 2.5 mile-wide and a 154-mile-long demilitarized zone.

Truce Talks Begin



Negotiations opened on July 10, 1951 at the conference site in Kaesong.

The United Nations Delegation



United Nations negotiations delegation at Kaesong. Left to right: Gen. Laurence C. Craigie, Gen. Paik Sun Yup of the Republic of Korea, Adm. C. Turner Joy, Gen. Henry I. Hodes, and Adm. Arleigh A. Burke.

Truce Talks Continue at Panmunjom

The negotiating site in Panmunjom, Korea. November 1951



The Enemy Delegation



Enemy delegation at the peace conference site. Left to right: Maj. Gen. Hsieh Fang and Lt. Gen. Teng Hua of the Chinese People's Liberation Army; Gen. Nam Il, Maj. Gen. Lee Sang Cho, and Gen. Chang Pyong San of the North Korean People's Army.

The Initial Signing



At the initial signing ceremony, United Nations senior delegate Gen. William K. Harrison Jr., left, and North Korean Gen. Nam Il, right table, sign the Armistice Agreement on the morning of July 27, 1953.

Defining the Demarcation Zone



Col. James Murray, United States Marine Corps, and Col. Chang Chun San, North Korean People's Army, agree upon maps defining the demarcation zone during the Panmunjom cease fire talks. October 1951

The End of a Fierce War



Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, Gen. Mark W. Clark countersigns the Armistice Agreement at Munsan-Ni, while Vice Adm. Robert P. Briscoe and Vice Adm. Joseph J. Clark look on. Gen. Clark's signature finalized the agreement. At 10 p.m., July 27, 1953, the guns fell silent across Korea and the shooting war was over.